

Schmitt, Abboud and Horgan. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. I'm just going to speak briefly because I listened to people talk about early retirement and so on, I don't want everybody to retire early. I certainly didn't retire early and I think if you can work and like to do what you're doing, that's fine, but when you start talking about safety classifications, firefighters, police, law enforcement of any kind, that is a different story because the energy is not there after you get to a certain age. It's a little more difficult to answer a fire bell at 2:00 a.m. and hop out of bed and run down for (inaudible). A lot of the firefighters have to go from home. They aren't all on duty when a big fire happens. And so when you start talking about early retirement I think you have to take into consideration the people that you are talking about. I'm going to, and I think you should keep that in mind when you're talking about this particular bill because you're talking about our State Patrol who are very important to our safety all across the state, right here in this building, everywhere you go and I, for one, try to support the patrol right down the line. I have a long-standing feeling for them and I remember when the patrol was organized when I was a little girl and I just think it has been such a wonderful part of our law enforcement in the State of Nebraska and still is. So think about the people that you're talking about. They aren't numbers, they're people. And again I just want you to think again about the fact that they are in law enforcement. They are part of our safety and protection forces and retirement for them is an entirely different thing than for someone who is in some sedentary job and that kind of thing. So I support the bill and I hope everyone will and will move it along. I do support 724, of course, so I do want both parts of it to move. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Landis, your light is next.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Hall, Senator Hall, rather, members of the Legislature, I applaud Senator Fisher having gone through the appropriate steps to place this issue before us, I'm grateful. I have historically stood up here and argued against early retirement plans over and over again and I've been quite regularly outvoted by my colleagues who given their loyalties to different elements of the public employment sector have voted for them in a wide variety of context. Senator Hohenstein